for high-throughput allele determination for molecular breeding in crops on 7th December, 2006 at International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, near Hyderabad with the goal of full utilization of modern molecular methods of genome analysis by Indian agricultural breeding and research programmes. The total sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 466.63 lakhs for a period of four years. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 275.07 lakhs has been already released to ICRISAT, Patancheru. The vision of the project will be achieved by providing high-throughput molecular genotyping and phenotyping technologies to a wide range of Indian public and private research and breeding institutes to improve the efficiency of plant breeding. The centre will undertake the following research activities; (a) develop effective and effective technology platforms for enhancing the efficiency of basic research and breeding programmes for a range of Indian crops and species; (b) identify genes, alleles and markers to be used for improving the productivity of Indian crops in drought-prone environment typically faced by farmers in the semi-arid tropics. The centre will offer courses and workships to provide scientists and students from different parts of country in the use of genomics technology in crop research and improvement. The centre will train agricultural scientists from different research institutes and universities of India so that the trained personnel can avail the marker genotyping services at the centre and use them in the breeding programme at their own institutes. The centre has already imparted two training programmes as "Molecular Marker Applications in Crop Genetics and Breeding" (two weeks duration each) to a total of 33 Indian scientists. These include 12 scientics from eight National Research Centres of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and 18 scientists from nine state agricultural universities and research stations.

(e) Does not arise, in view of above.

Shortage of eminent scientists in R&D in science related bodies

3225. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge shortage of qualified and eminent personnel in the field of Research and Development (R and D) in various sections of science related bodies;

(b) if so, the reasons for this pathetic situation;

(c) what steps are being taken to identify more qualified personnel for recruitment in R and D work;

(d) whether Government is planning to give attractive package to the R and D personnel in order to attract them to these activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Space, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and other scientific organisations have been experiencing a gap in supply and demand of qualified R and D personnel for the various programmes. This situation has emerged mainly because of better career prospects and remunerative packages being offered by the other sectors of the economy.

(c) to (e) To remedy this situation, the Department of Space (DOS) has set up the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), the Department of Atomic Energy has

set up a National Institute of Science, Education & Research (NISER) apart from setting up of five Indian Institutes of Science, Education & Research (IISERs) by the Government at Pune, Mohali, Kolkata, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram to ensure steady flow of young talent for carrying out R and D.

The Government is cognisant of this situation and has also taken various other measures to attract the Rand D personnel. These measures include:

- Induction of new and atttractive fellowships;
- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities, academic Institutions and laboratories;
- Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled aborad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S and T;
- First Track Scheme for Young Scientists;
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology;
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take u R and D as a career;
- Scientists are given financial assistance to participate in international conferences and training programmes abroad;
- Attractive incentives to the scientists including higher salaries with two addition increments and professional update allowance in the Fifth Pay Commission.

Import of Raw Silk from China

3226.SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to a gap in demand and supply of silk, the Government is permitting import of raw silk China to the tune of 10,000 tonnes a year;

(b) whether the landed price of Chinese silk is lower than the domestic price of silk; and

(c) apart from levying anti-dumping duty on Chinese imports into India what other measures Government plans to take to augment the production of mulberry and vanya silk varieties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir. There is a demand and supply gap of about 7000 M. tonnes of silk. This additional requirement has been met by the import of raw silk mostly from China which is mainly utilized in powerlooms, export oriented units and as warp for handloom fabrics.

(b) Yes Sir. The landed price (CIF prices) of Chinese silk is lower than the domestic prices (Filature/CB) per Kg. of raw silk.

(c) Apart from levying anti-dumping duty on Chinese imports into India, the Government of India has initiated many programmes to produce quality raw silk *viz.* implementation of Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for popularization of improved technologies evolved by Research Institutes to enhance the production of raw silk through vertical and horizontal expansion of sericulture especially mulbery bio-voltine silk and vanya silk